

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claims 10 to 20 are pending and being considered in the present application, since claims 1 to 9 were previously canceled. No new matter has been added. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the acknowledgement of the claim for foreign priority and the indication that all copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the previously filed Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449 paper, and cited references.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 11 and 17 include allowable subject matter. In this regard, the Examiner will note that each of claims 11 and 17 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of its respective base claim. The Examiner will further note that claim 12 has been amended herein without prejudice so that claims 12 to 14 ultimately depend from claim 11. The Examiner will further note that each of claims 16, and 18 to 20 has been amended herein without prejudice to depend from claim 17.

Accordingly, all of claims 11 to 14 and 16 to 20 are in condition for immediate allowance.

As regards the remaining rejected claims 10 and 15, claims 10 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as assertedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,238,192 ("McNair"). It is respectfully submitted that McNair does not anticipate either of claims 10 and 15, and the rejection should be withdrawn, for at least the following reasons.

Claim 10, as herein amended without prejudice, provides for a wall having circumferential ribs arranged in a sawtooth-shaped arrangement, where each rib includes a respective back that extends outwardly in a slanted manner from a surface of the wall in a slide-on direction of a plastic part that is slid over a metal part, and further includes a respective flank that extends perpendicularly back to the surface of the wall. McNair does not disclose, or even suggest, a sawtooth-shaped arrangement of ribs as provided for in the context of claim 10.

Further, claim 10, as herein amended without prejudice, provides for a respective annular groove located, in the slide-on direction, in front of each respective rib directly at a foot of the respective back of the respective rib. Thus, the grooves are all located at a same side of their respective ribs with respect to the slide-on direction. In McNair, on the other hand, grooves 46 and 48 lie on different sides of the annular elevations, which run toward inlet openings 22 as a delimitation.

Thus, McNair does not disclose, or even suggest, all of the features of claim 10, so that McNair does not anticipate claim 10.

Claim 15, as herein amended, without prejudice, includes subject matter analogous to that of claim 10, so that McNair does not anticipate claim 15 for at least essentially the same reasons set forth above in support of the patentability of claim 10.

As further regards claim 15, claim 15 provides for a filter mesh embedded in a base element made of plastic, which is configured to be slid over a valve body. The Office Action refers to filter screen 30 and the body 14 of McNair as assertedly disclosing, respectively, the filter mesh and valve body of claim 15. However, nowhere does McNair state that the filter screen 30 is embedded in a plastic base element that is configured to be slid of the body 14. Instead, McNair states that an inlet port 18 is bounded by a groove 20 in body 14 and that filter screen 30 is disposed within the radially outer portion of groove 20. McNair, column 2, lines 4 to 7 and lines 34 to 37. For this additional reason, McNair does not disclose, or even suggest, all of the features of claim 15, so that McNair does not anticipate claim 15 for this additional reason.

Withdrawal of the anticipation rejection of claims 10 and 15 is therefore respectfully requested.

Accordingly, all of the pending claims are allowable.

Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the claims as previously presented in a continuation patent application. Further, any disclaimer that may have occurred during the prosecution of this application is expressly rescinded as regards any subsequently filed patent application.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are in condition for allowance. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the present application are therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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